

Message from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 1997 Accountability Report is the third to be issued under OMB's pilot program for streamlining government reporting. Included as items of interest to the President, Members of Congress, VA managers and customers are overviews of the performance of VA's mission, accomplishments of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the audited financial statements, and the status of management controls. The report also contains—for the first time—a summary of the Inspector General's findings during the fiscal year.



The information in the Accountability Report is derived from officially recognized financial and management systems. A review of senior administrative and program managers' annual assessments provides significant assurance that VA's management controls and financial systems adhere to governmentwide standards and requirements. Full compliance of VA's financial systems will depend on the completion of the Veterans Benefits Administration's systems modernization efforts.

To keep the promises made by America to its veterans and their dependents, VA will continue to raise the bar of expectations—searching for ways to improve the quality of medical care, the delivery of services, and the appropriate memorialization for those who have served their country with courage and honor.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Togo D. West". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Togo D. West,